

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method of representing an object appearing in a still or video image, wherein the object appears in the image with a first two-dimensional outline, by processing signals corresponding to the image, the method comprising:

deriving a view descriptor of the first outline of the object,
deriving at least one additional view descriptor of the outline of the object in a different view, and

associating the two or more view descriptors to form an object descriptor containing the view descriptors.

2. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the view descriptors are derived using a curvature scale space representation.

3. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising deriving a descriptor of the object which is related to the shape and/or size of the object and which is independent of the view of the object in the image.

Claim 4 (canceled).

5. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said

view-independent descriptor corresponds to the volume of the object.

6. (currently amended) A method of searching for an object in still or video images by processing signals corresponding to image, the method comprising:

deriving a view descriptor of the first outline of a three-dimensional object,

deriving at least one additional view descriptor of the outline of the object in a different view,

associating the two or more view descriptors to form at least one stored object descriptor containing the view descriptors,

inputting a query to the computer in the form of at least two-dimensional outline of the object;

deriving a descriptor of the query object;

comparing said query descriptor with said object descriptor;
and

selecting and displaying at least one result corresponding to an image containing an object for which the comparison between the respective descriptor and the query descriptor indicates a degree of similarity between the query and said object.

7. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 6

C wherein a query is input in the form of two or more two-dimensional outlines of an object, and wherein a query view descriptor is derived for each said outline, and wherein the step of comparing comprises comparing each said query view descriptor with each view descriptor in each stored object descriptor to derive a plurality of view-similarity values.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 7 wherein the view-similarity values are analyzed to derive object similarity values.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least some of the object descriptors include view-independent descriptors ~~derived in accordance with a method as claimed in claim 3~~ which are related to shape and/or size of the object, and wherein the method comprises inputting a view-independent query value and the step of comparing compares the query value with the view-independent descriptors for the stored object descriptors.

10. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the query descriptor is derived using a curvature scale space representation of the query object outline.

11. (withdrawn) A method of representing an object appearing in an image by processing signals corresponding to said image, the method comprising deriving representations of a plurality of different 2-dimensional views corresponding to the object; and

supplying said plurality of different 2-dimensional views as at least a part of a representation of the object.

12. (withdrawn) An apparatus adapted for implementing a method as claimed in claim 1.

13. (withdrawn) A computer program for implementing a method as claimed in claim 1.

14. (withdrawn) A computer system programmed to operate according to a method as claimed in claim 1.

15. (withdrawn) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for implementing a method as claimed in claim 1.

Claims 16-32 (canceled)

33. (new) A method of searching for an object in still or video

images by processing signals corresponding to image, the method comprising:

receiving a query descriptor representing a view of an query object;

comparing the query descriptor with a plurality of stored descriptors each representing an identical three-dimensional object in a different view; and

selecting the three-dimensional object when one of the stored descriptors matches the query descriptor.

34. (new) The method of searching according to claim 33, wherein the query descriptor is derived using a curvature scale space representation of an outline of the query object.

35. (new) The method of searching according to claim 34, wherein the stored descriptor is derived using a curvature scale space representation of an outline of the three-dimensional object.
